

Wednesday May 22 1996

Albania D 50	Angola K 10	Armenia L 20
Andorra P 10	Australia A 10	Austria A 10
Azerbaijan A 10	Bahrain B 10	Belgium B 10
Bosnia H 10	Bulgaria B 10	Canada C 10
Croatia H 10	Czech Republic C 10	Denmark D 10
Egypt E 10	Finland F 10	France F 10
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Switzerland S 10	Taiwan T 10	Turkey T 10
USA U 10	UK U 10	Zimbabwe Z 10

# The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,539

Michael White on the Tory funding crisis

## John Major's money-go-round

G2 with European weather



A parents' guide to sex education

## What shall we tell the children?

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Society

## Sex and the flower show

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Tough non co-operation policy threatens to paralyse Europe in worst crisis for 23 years □ Sceptics hail PM's strategy over beef ban

# Major goes to war with Europe

## 'Breach of faith' goads Cabinet into reprisals

Patrick Wintour

**J**OHAN MAJOR provoked the biggest crisis in Anglo-European relations since Britain joined the European Union in 1973 by declaring yesterday a policy of non-co-operation with her partners in retaliation at their refusal to lift the ban on British beef exports.

An angry John Major accused unnamed partners, known to include the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, of a breach of faith and a wilful disregard of Britain's interests.

With immediate effect, the new policy — agreed yesterday with the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke — means Britain will first use its veto to block the passage of all EU directives requiring unanimity.

Britain will also adopt a policy of non-co-operation at meetings of the Inter-Governmental Conference. If no solution is found by the start of the next EU Heads of Government summit in Florence on June 21 and 22, Mr Major vowed to disrupt its proceedings and refuse to sign any communique at Florence, so turning it into a legal nullity.

The policy takes Mr Major to the brink of breaking both EU and British law, but the strategy has been pitched to prevent Britain being exposed to counter legal action.

The Prime Minister rounded on his European partners, especially Spain, Germany and Austria, saying: "A balanced proposal on the best scientific advice had been ignored by a number of member states, in some cases despite prior assurances of support. I must tell the House that I regard such action as a wilful disregard of Britain's interests and in some cases a breach of faith."

There was no scientific case for continuing the ban, he said. Legal proceedings to lift all the bans would begin this week. "These legal steps are not sufficient to have in all progress towards lifting the ban, we cannot be expected to continue to co-operate normally on other community business. I say this with great reluctance, but the EU operates through goodwill. If we do not benefit from goodwill from partners, clearly we cannot reciprocate."

"We cannot continue business as usual within Europe when we are faced with this clear disregard by some of our partners of reason, common sense and Britain's national interests."

Delighted Tory Euro-sceptics claimed that Mr Major had achieved a massive international political victory against the party's pro-European wing, so casting the die for a fiercely patriotic Conservative re-election strategy.

Privately, the sceptics were forecasting that Mr Major would be forced to take further measures soon.

In the Commons, Tory MPs taunted Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, with one Euro-sceptic, Sir Peter Tapsell, claiming they had shown themselves incapable of speaking for Britain. The chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, Sir Marcus Fox, said: "Enough is enough. If they don't get the message, the European Union is not going to be the same ever again."

Mr Major's drastic plans to paralyse Europe follows British ministers' exasperation at the repeated refusal of EU countries to take even limited steps to lift the seven-week ban on British beef products.

The policy of attrition, agreed in outline by the Cabinet last week, was sanctioned in detail with the pro-European Mr Clarke and the chief whip, Alistair Goodlad, yesterday morning, Mr Rifkind, who had already canvassed Cabinet Ministers for retaliatory options, gave his endorsement yesterday afternoon.

Friends of Mr Clarke insisted the Chancellor had not been forced into accepting the retaliatory package, but was a genuine, if reluctant, convert. The move provoked a furious response in Paris and Bonn, where ministers said they would not be blackmailed. The commission, desperate to defuse potentially its worst crisis since the De Gaulle empty chair policy of 1965, was immediately set on a round of meetings to see if agriculture ministers could find a solution.

A cautious Tony Blair counselled that Mr Major might be making a serious position worse, adding: "The language at the moment is strong but there is an absence of particulars as to exactly what you mean."

Labour privately see the non-co-operation statement as a piece of patriotic bluster that affects only three directives and will be lifted once the EU lifts the ban on beef derivatives.

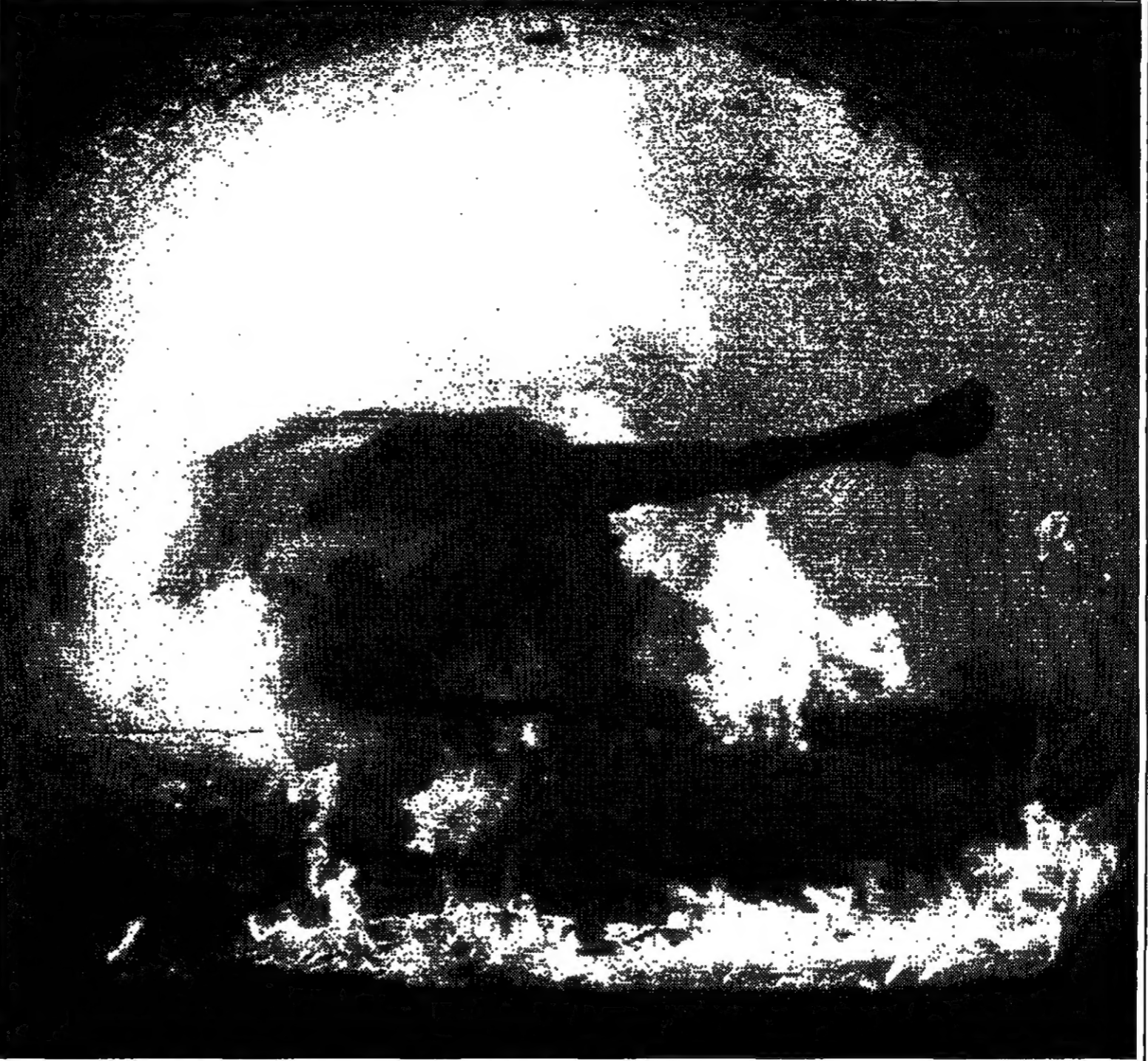
The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, claimed: "Most people will conclude that the Euro-sceptic minority on your backbenches have now taken control of the Government's foreign policy, and that this has much more to do with appeasing than with respecting confidence in the beef market."

Scientific dilemma, page 4; Leader comment, page 5; Editorial Currie and Tedy Taylor, page 9

## CBI urges peace in our time

'In this pungent atmosphere of romantic nationalism and churlish xenophobia, I sometimes wonder if there are some among us who have failed to notice that the war with Germany has ended'

Sir Bryan Nicholson, President of the CBI, speaking last night. Story page 11



In the abattoirs of Britain beef incineration continues as Major falls out with Europe

PHOTOGRAPH: NIGEL DICKENSON

## Mr Hogg's blundering progress

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**D**OUGLAS HOGG could not have got off to a better start when he was sent to present Britain's case in the beef crisis to Europe. The European Commission knew nothing of the issue which would isolate Britain until 30 minutes before it broke on March 20.

Mr Hogg told Franz Fischler, the Austrian agriculture commissioner, who has largely sided with the British case, that protocol demanded the Commission be told first. It put relations on to a bed footing and annoyed a potential ally: the Commission is the source of compensation funding and compromise dealing.



Douglas Hogg: Undiplomatic, unconvincing

bans on British beef, followed closely by the rest of the world. The Commission found itself dragged into endorsing the bans in the absence of any formal approaches from Britain, which even rejected a request to send its chief veterinary officer to the first crisis meeting of experts in Brussels.

They took to be an arrogant and blustering approach by the minister, who shouted and put forward no detailed plans for eradicating BSE from British herds. Britain was isolated 14 to one and Mr Hogg left Luxembourg with no promise of a date for ending the ban and no firm figures on compensation — the two things he had demanded.

Fellow ministers were astounded by his performance. "Your minister — is he thought much of a politician in Britain? He does not seem to be very good at diplomacy," said one incensed Scandinavian diplomat.

Despite Mr Hogg's having been told he must come up with a detailed plan of action by the end of April, commission officials said Britain made only the most desultory approaches to them in the four weeks between meetings. Mr Hogg tried a different tactic: charm. It had an unwelcome effect on French diplomats. "What can this mean? He has been smiling at us for the last two days," said one. It did not work. Mr Hogg announced in advance that he would be expecting a date for lifting the ban and that proposals for a limited cull of up to 42,000 cattle from herds in which BSE had been detected would be implemented only if that was forthcoming. It was not and the minister was Turn to page 3, column 1

## Thoughts of a farms minister

Bluster: "British beef can be eaten with confidence."

Douglas Hogg, March 23

The ban stays: "We came a long way in two days."

April 3

Mass slaughter? "The government has no intention of adopting any such measure."

April 16

Watch out, Europe: "There was no talk of retaliation."

April 23

42,000 cattle to die, but the ban stays: "We have broken through by a combination of science, logic and tough talking."

April 30

Bluster: "The essential question to ask is, 'Is British beef safe?' and the answer is 'yes.'"

May 1

Cull doubled, but the ban stays: "Good progress has been made today."

May 15

The ban stays: "It was very disappointing for the British government, for the commission, and also in relation to Europe..."

May 21



## Blocking moves

The Prime Minister's threat would involve Britain in blocking...

■ May 23, Brussels, Civil Protection Council: discussion on co-operation in fighting natural disasters.

■ May 28, Brussels, Internal Market Council: discussion on cross-frontier trade issues.

■ June 3, Luxembourg, Social Affairs and Finance Ministers' Council: social chapter discussions on workers' rights.

■ June 4, Luxembourg, Justice and Home Affairs Ministers' Council: attempts to reach agreement on Europol.

■ June 10, Luxembourg, Fisheries Ministers' Council: reaching fishing agreements with third countries.

■ June 11, Luxembourg, Culture Ministers' Meeting: agreements on cross-frontier cooperation.

■ June 17, Luxembourg, Transport talks: discussion of negotiations with US on air landing rights.

■ June 22-23, Florence, EU leaders' summit: discussion about the inter-governmental conference reforming the EU.

'Genius goes to war'  
The Times

'Enigma totally gripped me'  
ROY JENKINS, Sunday Times

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Sketch

Don't panic! Major drills dad's army



Simon Hoggart

IT WAS the day war broke out. The Prime Minister's voice cracked over the microphone. "No such undertaking has been received, and consequently this country is at war with Germany, and all the other lot too..."

years that our slack approach to BSE would bring disaster. But in these dark days when the nation — or at least the Tory party — is united in the face of the enemy, being right is not enough. He went on too long and was jeered.

Mr Major switched from March of History mode back to Mr Pevish. The Labour leader had not expressed a single view of how to handle the matter, he whinged, though this was somewhat unfair, since there's a reasonable chance that Labour policies would have avoided the imbroglio in the first place.



COLOGNE: Bus drivers strike against the government's plan to slash spending next year. Their union, OeTV, plans nationwide action by tens of thousands of workers a day

German 'miracle' begins to fade away

Trade unions are determined to sink planned spending cuts, Ian Traynor in Bonn reports

GERMANY'S famed post-war consensus threatened to unravel yesterday as union and opposition leaders moved to marshal their forces against Chancellor Helmut Kohl's austerity campaign and spending cuts.



DUSSELDORF: About 3,000 public workers take to the streets in a show of support for union negotiators, who are due to begin a fourth round of pay talks with employers today. The union is demanding a 4.5 per cent pay rise



COLOGNE: The sun shines for commuters if not for the government. Potential passengers in a suburb wait for a train that has been cancelled because of a lightning strike called by the public service workers' union



BONN: A student wearing a protective jacket with the legend Token Strike joins a demonstration in the capital against the proposal to impose a wage freeze



KIEL: Hundreds of public service workers swelled the more than 100,000 nationwide in a blow to Chancellor Kohl's plans to reduce the public sector deficit, which threatens his dream of a single European currency



LEIPZIG: A new round of pay talks starts today, but the city's tramworkers in the old East Germany join the national strike in an attempt to warn the government off its planned austerity measures

First night

Classic case of love and guts

Michael Billington

PHAEDRA'S LOVE Gate Theatre, London. SARAH KANE certainly doesn't give up. Her first play, *Blasted*, was reviled and revered for its graphic violence. In *Phaedra's Love*, at the Gate in Nottingham Hill, she weaves a variation on classical myth and works her way through masturbation, fellatio, rape, castration and disembowelment.

the court is a model of decorum. Since Hippolytus has woman sent in on demand. Sarah Kane's point appears to be that modern royalty is a jab-wad myth; that it poses as a national emblem while being prey to all kinds of tortured passion. But it is never clear whether Kane is attacking royalty as such, or the voracious, voyeuristic populace.

The SPD will be able to derail the scheme through its control of the upper house of parliament in Bonn. Dr Kohl needs the cuts to meet the key single currency criteria on budget deficit and state-debt ceilings.

Since Dr Kohl's cuts programme was unveiled, the finance ministry has confirmed that tax revenues for this year and next are expected to fall almost DM90 billion short of what was budgeted, mainly because of soaring unemployment of almost 4 million.

On the slide

The German economy, according to the OECD is likely to grow by only 0.5 per cent this year. Unemployment of 4.2 million (above 10 per cent) is the highest for 60 years.

Cancer drug trials send shares in profitless company soaring

anti-cancer drug, had been recorded in patients suffering from four different forms of the disease. The company said the trials had suggested that marimastat could slow the progression of ovarian and pancreatic cancer, causing only limited side-effects.

Small Oxford-based biotechnology company that has never sold a product — let alone made a profit — yesterday saw its shares rocket to over £30 each, up from £12.50 at the start of the day.

people must take part in our trial to receive the treatment, and it's down to the doctors to decide who goes in. Marimastat — which is taken in the form of a pill — is part of a family of drugs called matrix-metalloproteinases, enzymes which are involved in destroying old or damaged tissues, and which are thought to be able to halt the spread of tumours without actually killing them.

US groups unite to stop company patenting 'breast cancer' gene. THE first legal and political battle over the ownership of human genes got underway in the United States yesterday, when a coalition of women politicians and public health groups united to prevent the breast cancer gene from falling into private hands.

Advertisement for 'mother of god' by DAVID AMBROSE. Includes text: 'Does someone know your agenda for the coming week better than you? Do you know who they are? Are you being stalked on the net? read mother of god by DAVID AMBROSE Then start worrying... A WHSMITH THUMPING GOOD READ 1996' and an image of a woman's face.

# Unionists' ultimatum to Major

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

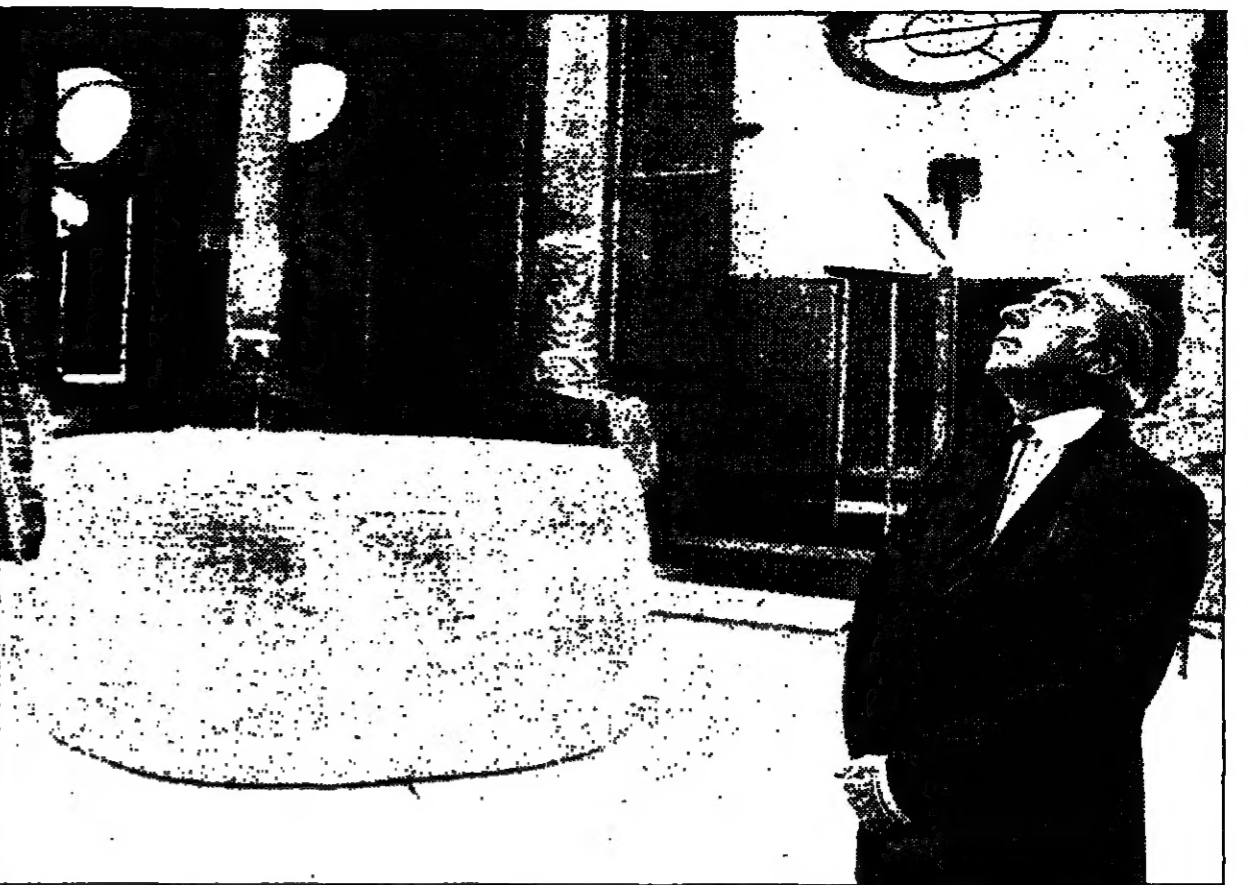
**T**HE Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, last night warned John Major that he would bring down the Government if there was "any backsliding" on this day for an IRA ceasefire and decommissioning at the outset of the June all-party talks. Mr Trimble made clear that he expects the proposals contained in the Mitchell report on decommissioning illegal paramilitary to be met in full, following Sinn Fein's announcement that it will sign up to the report's six principles.

had drawn a line in the sand. "Unionists cannot and will not negotiate with a gun pointed at their heads." Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein president, yesterday refused to condemn paramilitary violence and said he did not know if the IRA would announce a fresh ceasefire. Speaking a day after announcing that he was prepared to sign up to the six "Mitchell principles" of non-violence, Mr Adams said: "Condemnation and denunciations may sound good in terms of the sound-bite or in terms of the politics of the establishment. They won't work." Launching his party's manifesto for the May 20 elections to a forum which will lead into all-party talks 10 days later, Mr Adams said that Sinn Fein would turn up at the venue for the all-party talks armed only with their mandate. He did not know if the IRA would call a new ceasefire.

"I would remind the (British and Irish) governments and parties that any progress beyond this point requires our agreement. In the case of (Gerry) Adams's purported acceptance of the Mitchell report, we are alert to the danger of further pressure on John Major to again dilute the Government's position. I want to make it clear that any backsliding on the part of the prime minister on the twin issues of the ceasefire and decommissioning would be regarded as a fundamental breach of faith. In such circumstances, I would have no hesitation in recommending to my parliamentary colleagues to oppose the Government." Mr Trimble said that he



Manna from heaven... Lord St John in his incarnation as Arts Minister appraising the Henry Moore altar in St Stephen Walbrook, London, and, left, the bronze horses of San Marco



# Former Minister discovers the fine art of living like a lord — at a total cost of £800,000 to the taxpayer

Dan Glaister  
Arts Correspondent

**I**T IS one of the most exclusive clubs in the country. It pays £200,000 a year in rent; its chairman spends £20,000 a year on car hire, and it produces a glossy annual brochure at a cost of £10,800. Yet, despite appearances, the Royal Fine Art Commission is not a club but "the ultimate authority for consultation on matters of taste and aesthetics", according to its remit. Yesterday that taste came under withering attack with the publication of a Department of National Heritage report, commissioned by the former Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, in March 1994. It puts the overall cost of the commission to the taxpayer at £800,000 per year. The commission exists to advise the Government on architectural projects.

The report, by former civil servant Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield, condemns the lavish style of the commission's chairman, Lord St John of Fawsley, former Conservative Arts Minister Norman St John-Stevens. When not enjoying the attention of his two deputy secretaries, three secretaries, a part-time public relations assistant and his driver, Lord Fawsley, according to Who's Who, is also a member of several London clubs, including White's, the Garrick, Pratt's, the Arts Club, Grillon's and The Other. The report was completed in the summer of 1994, but has been doing the round of government departments as they attempt to coordinate their responses. It had been thought that the delay was to allow Lord Fawsley time to reach the end of his second five-year term before bowing out gracefully. But two weeks ago he was granted a third

term of office on the recommendation of ministers. Mr Chipperfield singles out the commission's £280,000 accommodation charges in his report, saying: "While these are no doubt reasonable for a building of the size and character of 7, St James's Square, I have questioned the need for accommodation as impressive as this house provides." There are 16 unelected commissioners, including Lord Fawsley. They include architects, planners and designers, ranging from Giles Worsley, editor of Prince Charles's favourite architecture magazine, to property developer Stuart Lipton, traditionalist architect Quinlan Terry and the more modernist Ian Ritchie. The full colour annual report introduced by Lord Fawsley to replace a black and white document has been described as a "taxpayer-funded version of Hello magazine". It includes photographs of Lord Fawsley with royalty and politicians, and contains approving reports on architecture commissioned by Lord Fawsley.

ter in Margaret Thatcher's first government from 1979 to 1981. He took senior shadow roles during the years in between. The MP for Chelmsford from 1964 to 1987, he has since been made a life peer concentrated his efforts on the arts. With his regal tastes and Edwardian style — he carries a walking stick and has been known to wear purple slippers embroidered with his family crest — Lord St John has proved to be a Catholic intellectual with distinctly eclectic tastes in both art and politics. In the House he opposed abortion rights and hanging, while supporting birth control and the preservation of hereditary peers. He testified for the defence in the Lady Chatterley trial in 1960. When it comes to architecture he is close to the traditional values of the Prince of Wales, but his favourite painting is the abstract expressionism of Jackson Pollock's Number 12.



Lord St John... known for his eclecticism

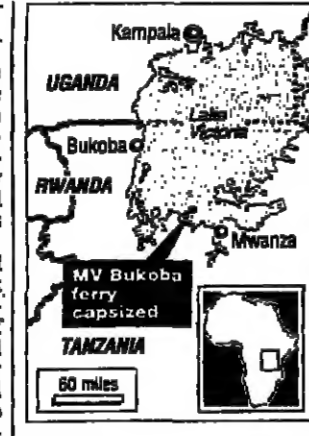
## Regal figure with an uncompromising line of approach

**O**NCE referred to as "the Othello woman's Larry Grayson," Lord St John of Fawsley is one of the few people who can still be relied on to voice his unequivocal support for both the royal family and the Pope, writes Gary Young. The son of a Greek engineer and an Irish mother, Lord St John, aged 67, was minister of state for the arts in Edward Heath's government and arts minister

# 400 feared dead in ferry tragedy

Chris McCreel in Nairobi

**M**ORE than 400 people are believed to have drowned after a packed Tanzanian ferry capsized and sank on Lake Victoria early yesterday. By nightfall only 120 people had been rescued and 25 bodies recovered. The disaster happened when the MV Bukoba struck a rock about 20 miles northwest of the Tanzanian port of Mwanza, at the southern end of Lake Victoria. Two other ships spotted her capsizing and a number of vessels came to the rescue, including the largest ship on the lake, the MV Victoria. But despite their efforts, the ferry, owned by Tanzanian Railways, is reported to have sunk so swiftly that there was little hope for most of the passengers, crammed inside cabins and the hold. Many of the victims are likely to have been Tanzanian merchants and peasant farmers, transporting goods and crops to market, although the ferries are also popular with foreign backpackers. Salim Naoma, principal secretary at the Tanzanian ministry of transport, said last night that the search would continue, despite the poor chances of finding survivors. Crocodiles and hippopotamuses are among predators in the lake. Tanzania's president, Benjamin Mkapa, declared three



days of national mourning for the victims. Mr Naoma denied reports that the ferry was overloaded, and said it had recently passed a seaworthiness inspection. However, Tanzanian railway sources said the ageing vessel had been due for retirement very soon. The ferry was among many which ply Lake Victoria, usually overflowing with passengers travelling between Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Traffic on Africa's largest lake is largely unregulated, and since the collapse of the region's trading bloc, 20 years ago, and the disintegration of the jointly-run East African Railways. A crowded boat capsized in rough weather on April 25, on its way to eastern Uganda, and at least 81 people were drowned. Only six survived.

# Hogg's blundering progress through councils of Europe

continued from page 1 forced to put the best face on things by predicting an imminent lifting of the ban on by-products such as gelatin and tallow. The Government has hung itself to that limited prospect ever since and has secured the grudging support of the European Commission — but again this week its miscalculation became apparent when the expert veterinary committee refused to endorse even a partial lifting of the ban. Again the minister blundered, letting it be known that Britain would be prepared to slaughter up to 60,000 cattle,

having previously insisted that 42,000 was the maximum it could do. That allowed the issue of the call to become hopelessly mixed with the by-products ban and left European ministers asking whether Britain was serious about eradicating the disease. Mr Hogg bats on implacably. "Member states should now accept their responsibilities and agree to a rapid ending of the ban," he told the Commons. The trouble is that after 63 days of Hogg diplomacy, bluster, politicking and threats, the colleagues in Brussels still don't believe him.

# Megabuck pay and it's all legal

Sarah Ryfe

**T**HE closest most British lawyers have come to a million-dollar legal world of television's LA Law, but yesterday an American firm brought the reality of US-style pay packets to the UK by placing an advertisement offering up to £700,000 for three top City solicitors. Recruitment consultant Joe Macrae, acting for the New York partnership, said: "New York firms offer higher, and in some cases significantly higher, wages in London than their British counterparts. This has started to have an effect as lawyers at the senior partner and assistant level realise this." He said £450,000 was the highest previously advertised salary for a lawyer. The latest advert was for three corporate finance solicitors "comfortable with mergers, acquisitions and restructurings" to join Chadbourne & Parke at between £200,000 and £700,000, depending on track record. At £700,000 a year, home-grown lawyers would join the ranks of the superstar soccer players like Stan Collymore, who at £16,000-a-week is the country's highest paid footballer. Stephen Rodney, director of recruitment company Quarry Dougall, said that leading American law firms have been offering top salaries for two years. He said: "It is not a case of upping the ante for the very top jobs, although there is garnishing for assistant partners which the American firms are involved in." He defended the size of the

salaries and said the parallels with footballers were more to do with the high quality performance demanded than with the size of the fees. "If you pay £7 million for Andy Cole and he doesn't score goals then you would expect him to be axed. Lawyers are expected to produce the goods as well. You don't just pay somebody that kind of money to come in and sweep the floor." Laurence Simons, head of an international legal recruitment firm, said: "At the top end of the market in the main cities like Washington and LA, it is not uncommon for salaries to be about \$1 million which is about £700,000." He said salaries of £500,000 were a very rare achievement for British solicitors. A partner with a top City law company would be more likely to make about £200,000 a year. But at dining tables in Washington, top lawyers have been shaking their heads sympathetically at the relative poverty of their British counterparts for some time. A former Rhodes Scholar who studied at Oxford University said: "Our British friends really do not earn anything like the amounts we do." The pay at Chadbourne & Parke may be American, but the income tax will be British. A Coopers & Lybrand tax specialist estimated a total of £260,000 on the £700,000 pay packet and £80,000 on the £200,000 offer. There is another price to pay, Mr Simons said: "They work harder in the States. Over there they want 100 per cent of your body and soul. Here they just want 100 per cent of your body and 90 per cent of your soul."

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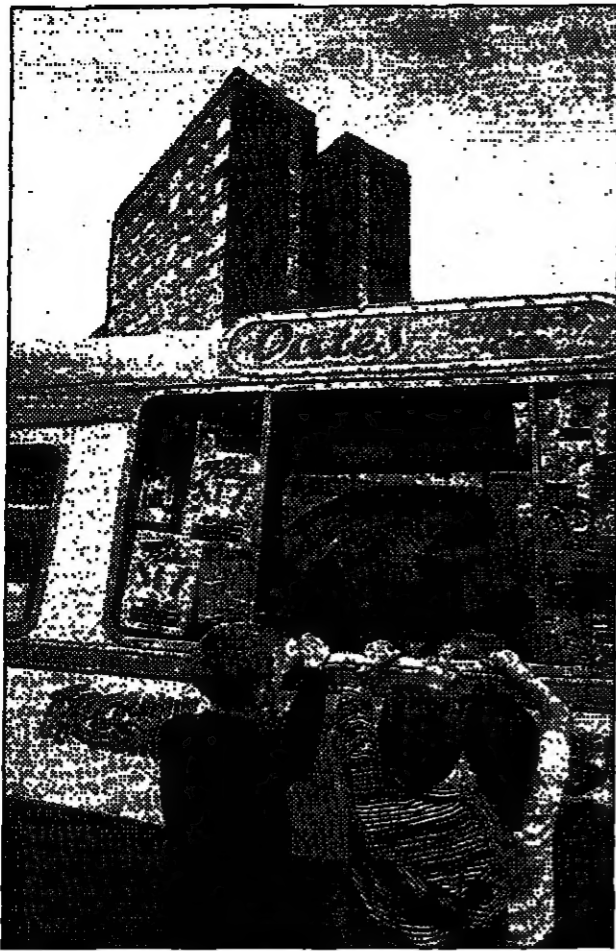
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Having made a fortune from his "downsizing" message, Stephen Roach can now expect to earn it all over again by telling companies how to cope with the malignant consequences of heeding his earlier advice. "But Steve, we fired all our workers, just like you told us, and now we have an empty factory. What can we do?" "Uh, rehire them."

Francis Wheen G2 page 3



# Boy tells how stone slab killed pensioner

Child, 11, denies manslaughter at block of flats, reports Martin Wainwright

**A** PRIMARY schoolboy accused of killing a pensioner with a concrete slab told a court yesterday that he had toppled the missile from the top of a nine-storey tower block because he liked being naughty and it was "fun".

The 11-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, clung to his mother's arm at Leeds crown court as he denied the manslaughter of Edna Condie, aged 74. Her skull was crushed by the 15lb slab as she returned from shopping.

The boy admitted heaving the dislodged stone on to the parapet of Grayson Heights in Kirkstall, Leeds. "I just stood

on my tiptoes, pushed it over and let it drop down. I was having some fun. It is fun being bad and no fun being good."

He admitted he knew what he had done was wrong and said he was able to tell the difference between right and wrong.

He and two friends had evaded the block's security system by ringing an elderly tenant's buzzer and persuading her they lived in the block. "Then we went on the roof and started throwing things off," he said.

"We were playing about and throwing stuff off the roof." He denied he knew people were below and said



Young life (top left) in the area of Grayson Heights, and (above) the flats where a pensioner died. PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN ANDERSON

he had not wanted the slab to hit anyone.

Earlier the court was told the boy, who was 10 at the time of the tragedy last August, had laughed and shouted: "I'm not bothered" after being told someone had been killed by the slab.

Two of his friends, aged nine at the time and with him on the roof, said they had seen people below and warned him not to topple the stone.

The court heard the children had been taking part in a craze for bluffing their way into the flats and hurling small stones, rubbish and oranges off the roof.

Interviewed on video, one

of the pair, who also cannot be named, said: "[The defendant] found this brick. I said: 'You are not throwing that off. He said: 'Just watch me and see' and just threw it off and hit a lady on the head."

Looking distressed, he told a woman interviewer on the video, filmed the day after the tragedy: "I saw it hit her." He made a crunching sound, imitating the slab landing, and said: "She fell down on the floor."

Mrs Condie, who lived in the flats, was killed instantly, collapsing in a pool of blood in front of her husband George, aged 76, and daughter Janet Smith, aged 43. The court heard the three boys

**'I just stood on my tiptoes, pushed it over and let it drop down. I was having some fun. It is fun being bad and no fun being good'**

ran off, and one of the defendant's friends immediately told his mother what had happened.

The second boy to give video evidence said the defendant had led the way up to the roof, saying: "I've got a surprise for you."

He made his two friends turn their backs while he lifted the slab on to the parapet, and then said: "You can turn round now."

The boy witness told the jury of nine women and three men: "When I looked down, I saw two people. It took about two seconds for the brick to hit the lady. I heard a bang and somebody screaming."

The case continues today.

# Tory MPs quit after media bill revolt

Rebecca Smithers and Patrick Wintour

**T**WO rising rightwing stars of the Tory back benches were forced to resign as parliamentary private secretaries last night after they voted against the central plank of the Government's Broadcasting Bill limiting cross-media ownership.

John Whittingdale, MP for Colchester-South and Maldon, once political adviser to Margaret Thatcher and now an aide to the education minister Eric Forth, and Peter Atkinson, MP for Hexham and FPS to two Foreign Office ministers including Jeremy Huntley, defied government whips with an amendment.

They tabled and then backed the amendment which would have allowed newspaper groups such as News International and the Mirror Group to buy stakes in terrestrial television companies. The two men immediately resigned when their amendment was defeated by just one vote — 14 to 13.

Last night Mr Whittingdale said: "I am very sorry to leave the Government."

Mr Atkinson said his resignation was a "a formality", and that he had no regrets. "I believe in liberalisation and

free trade. I am fundamentally opposed to shutting the Mirror out of the market."

Both men held intensive discussions before yesterday's vote to try to persuade the Government to accept a relaxation.

The amendment would have cut through the Broadcasting Bill by allowing newspaper groups to buy stakes in terrestrial TV companies regardless of their share of the newspaper market, so long as it was deemed to be in the public interest. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, inheriting a policy from Stephen Dorrell, had insisted no newspaper group with more than a 20 per cent share in the newspaper market should be allowed a stake in commercial TV.

The threshold blocks both Rupert Murdoch's News International and the Mirror from seeking a stake in Channel 3 and 5 TV franchises.

The Labour heritage team, led by Geoff Hoon and Lewis Moonie, claimed the 20 per cent share had been an arbitrary choice and cost only what it would have cost to prevent the Labour-leaning Mirror Group building a sizeable TV empire to match that of Associated Newspapers and News International's satellite TV interests.

# Nike scores Euro 96 own goal with stars of poster campaign

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

**T**HE curse of Nike has struck Euro 96, with many of the footballers chosen by the company for a poster campaign either omitted from their national squad, or on the point of being omitted.

Until last month one even looked as if he would spend the tournament in jail.

The Frenchmen Eric Cantona and David Ginola would not be playing in the European soccer championships next month sent shivers around Nike's headquarters and revived memories of the sportswear company's disastrous 1992 Olympic poster campaign. Then it put all its resources into pushing the "invincible" talents of Noureddine Morcelid (did not start), Sergei Bubka (did not feature), and Michael Johnson (did not run very fast).

The company has invested in 2,000 poster sites, including several hundred featuring Cantona which declare: "I've worked hard to improve English football — now it must be destroyed". Not by him — he has not made France's final 22.

Another has Newcastle United team-mates Ginola and Les Ferdinand together with the slogan "Friendship expires 6/96". Ginola is out and Ferdinand is doubtful for England.

Nike is left with defender Paolo Maldini, the Italy captain, a safe bet, and Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert, who was facing jail in Holland over a fatal car accident, but escaped a jail term last month.

The company has become as creative in finding ways to explain its situation as it has in devising the posters. "We make bold statements and enjoy not being 'safe' which means occasionally our campaigns can work against us," said the spokesman.

"These posters are about players' loyalties. In the Ferdinand/Ginola poster we are trying to say that though the two play for the same club, come summer that friendship will go out of the window. With the Cantona poster the caption does not say he himself will destroy England." Something of a Nike distinction.

# Fear outweighs science as distrust clogs EU diplomacy on beef

Popular opinion on Continent blocks lifting of export ban

Owen Bowcott

**J**OHN Major's threat to retaliate against the European Union if the ban on British beef exports is not lifted focused attention yesterday on the scientific row at the heart of the diplomatic crisis.

European doubts over Britain's plans to eradicate BSE have long been heightened by the fact that nearly 27,000 cattle born after the Government's 1988 ban on infected feed have contracted the disease.

If previous measures trumpeted by ministers at West-

minster as a definitive cure did not work, then why, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Benelux countries wonder, should the latest proposals be trusted?

The BSE cases known as Babs — cattle Born After the feed Ban — also highlight the shifting sands of scientific consensus and the relative absence of firm data about the progress of the disease.

Experiments are still being conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture into fears that the disease is passed from cows to calves at birth. The department no longer excludes the possibility, but insists that any maternal trans-

mission is small. Nor has political wordplay eased fears that BSE may trigger a wide-scale outbreak of CJD, the human equivalent of the disease. The Government repeatedly describes British beef as safe to eat, but officials qualify the statement when pressed.

The channels of diplomatic communication between the ministry and other EU agriculture ministries are clogged with months of distrust. The Spanish agricultural counselor in London, Luis Esteruelas, yesterday claimed that his ministers had "not been well briefed" by their UK counterparts.

"There's a lack of information," he said. "We don't have details of their slaughter programme. We were briefed by the ministry last Friday but they never told us about 80,000 cattle being slaughtered. We want a thorough, detailed and specific programme of BSE eradication."

Spain has insisted that EU inspectors oversee the process to ensure it is conducted effectively. Some member states have suggested a 200,000-head cull as a minimum.

Britain says such mass destruction of herds is not based on clear grounds of risk limitation.

But it is objectors like Germany, openly admitting that the ultimate aim must be to restore consumer confidence in beef, which have touched upon what appears to be the main source of resistance to lifting the ban — the continental domestic voters.

Popular fears about the ef-

fect of BSE appear, paradoxically, to be greatest in those countries least affected by the disease. While consumption in Britain, according to the ministry, has reached nearly 95 per cent of the levels prior to the latest scare, in Germany consumption is only at 70 per cent and in Italy not much above 50 per cent. With such widespread fears, there is little political incentive for European Union ministers to lift the ban.

Such a cynical calculation may also be leading British negotiators to belittle the genuine scientific fears being raised in Brussels. "I think it's more a matter of public opinion," a government spokesman suggested yesterday. "There's a bit of science in there but not a lot at this stage."

Even Britain's allies were reluctant to support Mr Major's non-co-operation policy.

Bonn: German officials gave no signals of retreat from the hard line Bonn has taken on the ban.

They accused Downing Street of overreacting. "We have no interest in keeping the BSE scare alive. Each of us has important national interests and maybe bull semen and gelatin are in the national interest as exports," a foreign ministry official said. "But that doesn't justify bringing the entire European Union process to a grinding halt."

Bonn insisted it was acting to shore up collapsed confidence in its own beef industry. "The German consumer is not interested in confidence-building measures, but in food safety."

Madrid: "We cannot play around with consumers' health," said Spain's new agriculture minister, Loyola de Palacio, defending her country's decision to oppose lifting the ban.

Speaking in Brussels, she said Britain had not produced a coherent plan to eradicate

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# Sibling blood is hope for sick children

## Erlend Clouston on a new treatment

**A** FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy with leukaemia has become the first in Britain to undergo an experimental operation which offers new hope to sufferers, it was announced yesterday. Two weeks later, another child, aged seven, suffering from a rare form of anaemia was also given the same treatment in another hospital.

The four-year-old Asian boy, identified only as Bilal, received a transfusion of blood taken from the umbilical cord of his newborn brother. Such blood is rich in stem cells, from which other blood cells form. Doctors at Glasgow's royal hospital for sick children must now wait up to a year to see whether Bilal improves after the operation, which took place on



Bilal, aged four, with his younger brother Aadil, whose donation of umbilical cord blood may help him fight leukaemia

PHOTOGRAPH MURDO MCELROD

April 4. He has been discharged from hospital. Leukaemia, a form of cancer of the blood, is usually treated by chemotherapy, with or without transplants of bone marrow, where blood is produced. But doctors believe transfusion of umbilical cord blood may be more effective. The second transplant, on

April 23, took place at London's Great Ormond Street children's hospital on Vijay Negi, from north London. He received blood cord cells taken at the birth of his baby sister. Vijay suffers from Fanconi anaemia — said to be an "extremely rare" condition with no cure other than stem cell transplantation. Yesterday

he was said to be making a "very good recovery" at Great Ormond Street. There has been growing interest in harnessing the potential of the umbilical cord. Around 200 transplants have been completed abroad, but until last month all British attempts had failed. The procedure raises the

ethical issue of "designer conception". Bilal's mother was already pregnant before the possibility of recycling her cord blood was raised, but his doctor said desperate parents might feel driven to conceive in order to save a child. "It is not something I would encourage; children should be conceived and

born for themselves," said consultant haematologist Brenda Gibson. The hospital had failed to find a suitable bone marrow donor for Bilal, who had had leukaemia from birth. At present, suitable donors can only be found for about three out of 10 patients, some of whom die while on the waiting list.

# Cancer op cancelled 10 times

Sarah Roseley

**D**AVID MILLER had prepared himself as well as he could for his liver cancer operation, knowing there was a 10 per cent chance he could die under the surgeon's knife. He had not prepared himself for the trauma of having that operation cancelled 10 times by the hospital, often a few hours before he was due to be wheeled into theatre.



David Miller: victim of lack of intensive care beds

Finally, he could take no more and made arrangements to have the operation privately. But when the surgeon — the same one who would have operated under the NHS — eventually opened him up, it was decided that the tumours were too advanced to remove. Recovering from surgery at his Surrey home before he undergoes chemotherapy, Mr Miller, aged 64, said he did not know whether the delay, which lasted a month, had worsened his condition to the point where it became inoperable. "But it does beg the question," he said. "It will always be in the back of our minds."

His case bears out the warnings of 27 medical directors in London and the South-east, who last year warned the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, that cancer patients were failing to get the surgery they needed because there were not enough intensive care beds. It is exactly the reason Mr Miller was given. Three weeks after Mr Miller first wrote to protest at his treatment, the Hammersmith Hospital's NHS Trust admitted it was at fault.

plight. I just want to publicise the appalling situation at Hammersmith Hospital in the hope that it will enable the administration to reorganise their procedures so that it doesn't happen to anybody else." He spoke of his "feeling of utter helplessness". The worst moment, he said, was the fourth cancellation, minutes before he and his wife Rosemary were due to leave the house.

"The crude word is gutted — it was like a blow in the stomach. I had packed yet again and Rosemary and I were going to leave at 1.30 and we got a phone call at 1.20 saying sorry, it's not on." The couple have a son, Patrick, aged 25, and a daughter, Katrina, aged 23, who is a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital. "She is appalled, and so are her colleagues," he said.

Mr Miller was first booked for admission on March 26. After several postponements, he was admitted on April 2 for an operation on April 4. On April 13, with the surgeon about to leave the country for a week, he went home. Ten days later, he was admitted for the operation privately. Mr Miller blamed "the system and a shortage of money". Yesterday the hospital said its intensive care unit "has been under severe pressure over the past three months with a number of extremely ill patients occupying beds for long periods." The trust is to hold a full inquiry.

# Girls face murder trial

John Mullin

**T**WO schoolgirls were yesterday charged with murdering Louise Allen, the 19-year-old who died after a disturbance following a visit to a fairground in Corby, Northamptonshire, last month. The defendants, aged 12 and 13, appeared before magistrates at a specially convened sitting of a youth court in Kettering, Northamptonshire, yesterday. They had been accused of manslaughter, but Crown Prosecution Service lawyers decided to charge them with

the more serious offence of murder. The girls, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were remanded in the custody of the local authority. Louise died the day after she was allegedly kicked unconscious as she went to the aid of her best friend, Rebecca Tyson. Doctors switched off her life support machines at Kettering general hospital after consulting her parents. A post mortem examination showed she died from a brain haemorrhage. Her father, John Allen, aged 40, a lorry driver, from Glasgow before moving to the former steel town, said: "We

are devastated at the loss of our little soul, Louise. No words will ever be able to describe the pain we feel now she is no longer with us. She was a wonderful daughter who, like any normal 13-year-old girl, lived life to the full." Mr Allen, and his wife, Ellen, 34, have two other children, John, 10, and two-year-old Dean. More than 1,000 people crowded into Our Lady and Pope John School, Corby, which Louise had attended, for a mass in her honour. The Rev Peter Wilson, Dean of Corby, and the family's local parish priest, spoke of Louise as a mother figure.

# Thieves silence TV comedy

Martin Walkerwright

**T**ELEVISION'S notorious chatterbox Nora Baty has finally been silenced by a gang of thieves — who are in for a shock. The haul of £75,000 worth of BBC sound recording equipment, snatched from a film crew's van on location near Huddersfield, includes the only copy of the soundtrack for a new series of the comedy *Last of the Summer Wine*. "For their sake, you can only hope they're fans," said a spokeswoman at the BBC, conjuring up images of burglars examining their

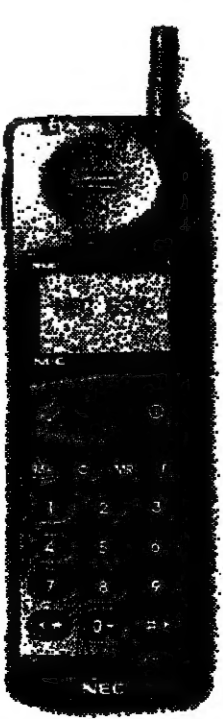
spoils and finding only Nora berating her elderly Pennine suitors. The corporation has a more serious reason for offering £500 for the tapes' return: in spite of the dodgy nature of the *Summer Wine* cast, viewers are unlikely to take kindly to the series as a silent movie. Without the tapes, scenes including this year's Christmas special may have to be re-shot, while actors will have to re-record their Yorkshire quips to be synchronised with film. The tapes were the only version, the BBC said, because shooting of the five episodes had only finished late the previous day.

The three men in balaclavas who broke into the van at 4.30am on Monday are said not to resemble Compo and his pals, but their haul may prove as useless as the *Summer Wine* trio's various inventive schemes. "The tapes are of absolutely no use to anyone but us — just rushes of sound which won't make sense without the film," said the spokeswoman. The reward has been offered on the John Birtian principle that paying it out would be considerably cheaper than having to re-record the five episodes.



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# Sofia's asylums of death

Despite recent reforms to Bulgaria's mental health system, children have been left to freeze to death, writes Julian Borger in Chichil

**C**HILDREN in a Bulgarian home for the mentally disabled were tethered to their beds last winter and left to freeze at night when the heating was turned off to save money. Fifteen children, a quarter of the home's patients, died as a result — victims of a threadbare and inhumane system that is only gradually being reformed.

A British volunteer nurse who visited in Chichil last August wrote a report describing conditions there as a crime against humanity. The government promised changes but they will be too late to save the children. It is unclear how many mentally handicapped Bulgarians died over the winter in other institutions. Government officials admit conditions are as bad as Chichil in 18 other homes that have been earmarked for closure.

Sixteen months have passed since the brutal nature of Bulgaria's asylums came to light. The socialist government elected in December 1994 embarked on a series of reforms of the mental health system. Some of Chichil's worst institutions, which resembled gulags in their conditions and horrific death rates, have been closed, their inmates sent to more humane homes. Day care centres have been opened, and a new social welfare act has been passed giving disabled Bulgarians greater rights.

But the system inherited from communism is entrenched. Jobs and money are at stake. Reforms are hampered by a lack of funds and territorial disputes between central government and local councils.

On a visit to the Chichil home, it is easy to see how so many perished. The two-storey building is disintegrating. Plaster has fallen off the wall in great slabs and ill-fitting pieces of hardboard have been nailed up in place of missing windows.

Inside, the smell of urine and faeces is overpowering. In the main dormitory, two out of three radiators have been disconnected, and toilets are sprouting from the rotten floor. In an upstairs room, 13 teenagers with severe mental and physical handicaps lie in stinking sheets. Many show signs of malnutrition and skin disease. Several have their limbs tethered.

An emaciated girl called Valentina, aged about 18, lies with her hands tied behind her back with a length of bandage. Her spindly legs are also bound. In the bed opposite, a girl of 14 called Ekaterina sits upright looking down at her painfully thin ankles,

which are crossed and knotted together with bandages. Her arms appear too weak to brush away the flies that cover her shaven, peeling scalp.

Jenny Manson, a British volunteer nurse who last visited the home in January, said that during the winter several children were tethered to their beds and one was lying in a bed surrounded by a metal cage. The cage has since been removed.

Penko Yonchev, Chichil's medical technician, said the children were tied to prevent them hurting themselves by

**'This is a crime against humanity and someone must take responsibility'**

striking their own faces or falling out of bed. He said there were not enough staff for the room to be supervised constantly, so the children were often left alone.

Mr Yonchev is temporarily in charge of the home after the director's resignation last week for "personal reasons". He remembers 10 children dying between November and January, but said workers in the region and in the capital, Sofia, insist the documented death toll was 15.

Seven came from a better-run home for younger children at Gomotarci, a few miles away. When the children turned 10 last year, the law dictated they be transferred to Chichil. Ms Manson last saw them lying unattended in an unit quarantine room. Within a few months, they were all dead.

"They were all fine when they went there," said Morag Drysdale, another British nurse working in the nearby town of Vidin. "It's the transition which is really difficult for them. No one helps them adapt and they just give up and die."

Mr Yonchev says, the children died principally because the home did not have enough money to pay for coal. When the inside temperature fell towards zero, Mr Yonchev put four children in each bed, and gave them each four aspirin a day, "to warm their bodies and keep off hypothermia".

Tanya Petkova, who is the head of social services in the nearby town of Kula, said Chichil's heating had to be turned off at night because of lack of funding from the central government. To keep the boilers running 24 hours a day would have required an extra 60 tonnes of coal, costing 120,000 leva (approximately £800).

Mrs Petkova's claims of underfunding were angrily denied in Sofia. Evgeniya Spassova, the deputy minister of Labour and Social Affairs, said less than half of Chichil's coal budget had been spent. The rest had been siphoned off for other uses.

"Money we raise in the central budget is re-allocated to



Cold and neglected... Inmates of Chichil mental home, where 15 died last winter, victims of underfunding and bureaucratic disputes. PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN BORGER

meet the needs of the local population," Mrs Spassova said.

Bulgarian aid workers in Sofia say the present labour ministry is more committed to reform than its predecessor but confirm the government is facing resistance from conservative local authorities.

After the Guardian reported the savage conditions in a camp for mentally handicapped men in Angol Voivoda in December 1994, the Bulgarian government ordered its closure and brought charges against its directors, but the local municipality

fought for more than a year to keep the camp open as a means of providing employment. It was finally closed on sanitary grounds in April this year.

The government and the local authorities in the nearby town of Kula have been aware of the conditions in Chichil since Ms Manson wrote a graphic report of a visit to the home in August 1995. "What is happening in this country regarding these young people is a crime of humanity and someone must take responsibility," the report said.

Nine months on, Mrs Spassova insists the Chichil home will be moved to another site about 30 miles away within weeks. But so far the new buildings have neither been bought nor renovated.

MacIntyre International, a British-based charity that helps people with learning disabilities, has offered to buy one of the buildings, a former hotel costing £40,000, and is currently trying to raise funds.

It is uncertain whether the children of Chichil can be evacuated before another winter descends.

David Hearst in Moscow

**R**USSIA'S Communist leadership is optimistic of victory in next month's presidential election, promised yesterday to pursue a programme of economic growth and modernisation.

The message was a clear indication that the party's leader, Gennady Zyuganov, wants to challenge President Boris Yeltsin for the middle ground of Russian politics. With many opinion polls putting Mr Yeltsin marginally in the lead, it is in the battle for the centrist vote that the campaign will be hardest fought.

To this end, the Communist Party fronted a moderate economist, Dr Tatyana Koryagina, to present its economic priorities. Dr Koryagina is a former adviser to Mr Yeltsin and works in an institute funded by the ministry of economics.

She immediately denied a spate of scare-stories in the Russian media that the Communists were preparing to renationalise the banks and conduct far-reaching changes in monetary policy. "The rights of foreign investors would be guaranteed," Dr Koryagina insisted. "They have been investing according to existing legislation, so they cannot be made victims of changes in legislation."

The Communist programme was one of "economic growth and growth of nationalities," she said. "The economic policy of [prime minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin's government is the fight against inflation, while ours is a programme of economic growth, because you can't speak about the

fight against inflation if you can't overcome the decline of production."

The present government, its policies agreed with the International Monetary Fund, has sharply cut the inflation which followed the introduction of reforms in 1992. But output has halved since 1992 and Dr Koryagina said it continued to decline in the first three months of this year.

She said her party's priorities would be to boost production in agriculture, food processing and small business. The state would also support the nuclear sector and technology. The state should have a role in regulating prices and industries providing the basic necessities for life, she said. But there would always be a place for the private sector.

"Our line would be the minimum of prohibition and maximum of permission. But the main attention will be put on help to national factories producing goods for mass consumption, for the poor and middle classes. In this sphere the turnover is very big and quick."

Asked how the Communists would fund their programme, Dr Koryagina said Russians held savings of 100-150 trillion roubles (£13-£16 billion) and the issue was how to attract them for investment.

According to her estimates, Mr Yeltsin has already allotted up to 100 trillion roubles in election promises. "Most of these promises simply won't be kept, and most of the money will go on paying [arrearages] salaries," she said.

Beside her set the Communist Party's campaign chief, Valentine Kupstov, who denied a spate of opinion polls giving Mr Yeltsin an 8 per cent lead. He said his own surveys put Mr Zyuganov far ahead of Mr Yeltsin, by 30 per cent to 17.

Mr Kupstov clashed with one of his main backers, Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Socialist party Working Russia, that he would make bankers do a bit of honest work "on the latrine". Mr Kupstov said: "We have disagreements with Viktor Anpilov on approaches of principle, but that does not mean the campaign is not united."

# WEU dismissed in British report

David Farhall Defence Correspondent

**T**HE Western European Union, seen by many in Brussels as the best hope of securing an integrated European defence and ultimately a European army, has been dismissed by British MPs as insignificant.

In a report\* on the 40-year-old, 10-country organisation, the cross-party Commons defence committee concludes that there is almost nothing the WEU does that cannot better be done by Nato. The MPs can find "little significance" in the concept of the WEU as Nato's European pillar. Unlike Nato it has "no continuing significance" in Europe's collective defence. Nor is it essential to collaboration on military equipment.

The committee suggests that the WEU's most useful role — preferably under a new name — is to provide a structure within which Europeans can conduct peacekeeping or humanitarian operations when the United States is not interested. But much remains to be done, in the MPs' opinion, if it is to be a bridge

between the European Union and Nato.

The report will be seen in Brussels as another symptom of Westminster's Euroscepticism. It is bound to cause embarrassment for British diplomats — whatever their private views — since publication coincides with the British presidency of the WEU and this year's inter-governmental conference at which the WEU's role as the military arm of the European Union will be an issue.

Britain has achieved modest improvements in the WEU's ability to conduct military operations, confined to the so-called "Petersberg" tasks of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief or rescue. It would accept closer links between the WEU and the EU, but does not endorse some other countries' ambition to integrate the two organisations.

● Slovaks' support for membership of Nato has cooled, with 38.7 per cent last month in favour of joining against 45.5 per cent last December, an opinion poll said.

\* Commons Defence Committee report on the Western European Union, HMSO, £11.50

# Izetbegovic fears for poll

Routier in Sarajevo

**B**OSNIA'S president, Alija Izetbegovic, has expressed concern that the Bosnian Serb president, Radovan Karadzic, may hold a referendum to rally support for himself and disrupt post-war elections.

"He may even try to strengthen his position by carrying out a kind of referendum," President Izetbegovic said. "If it is not prevented, not only will there be no chance for fair elections, but the peace process in many of its aspects will be halted," he added.

Mr Karadzic has resisted attempts by the international mediator Carl Bildt to unseat him and remains "in the saddle", the Bosnian President, Mr Izetbegovic said yesterday.

"Obviously Mr Bildt has not succeeded in... removing Karadzic as it seemed [he had] two or three days ago," he said. "I have been indicted twice by a United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Mr Karadzic has refused to step down as required under terms of the Dayton peace agreement."

Mr Izetbegovic's Muslim-led government fought for independence against separatist Serbs for three-and-a-half years until the peace treaty was signed by warring factions in December.

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By Jingo for July?
Don't rule out an early Europhobic election

BY threatening non-cooperation with the workings of the European Union as a result of the continuing beef ban, John Major has taken a dangerous leap into the dark with this country's future.

British policy over the beef crisis is undoubtedly in a quandary, but it is one which is of the Government's own making. The beef crisis derives directly from two long-term Conservative obsessions which were given their heads during the 1980s.

This of course is exactly what a growing section of Mr Major's party want. The Conservative Party, its fantasies whipped into hysteria by the right-wing press, is in an unprecedentedly fertile mood.

Mr Major's actions are those of a weak leader. The great danger now is that when his threats fail, he will be weaker still and allow himself to be driven by his party into even more confrontational positions against Europe.

Fundholders in the dock

No queue jumping but still some serious shortcomings

FOR five successive years Health Secretaries have showered praise on them. There have been six waves of fundholding family doctors. They now cover over half the population of the country.

million only covers extra management and computer costs. To that has to be added the extra administrative costs which fundholders generate in health authorities and hospitals.

Paradoxically, the report finds the most common criticism of fundholding — the creation of a two-tier NHS system under which fundholders' patients with lower clinical needs jump ahead of non fundholders' patients — unfounded.

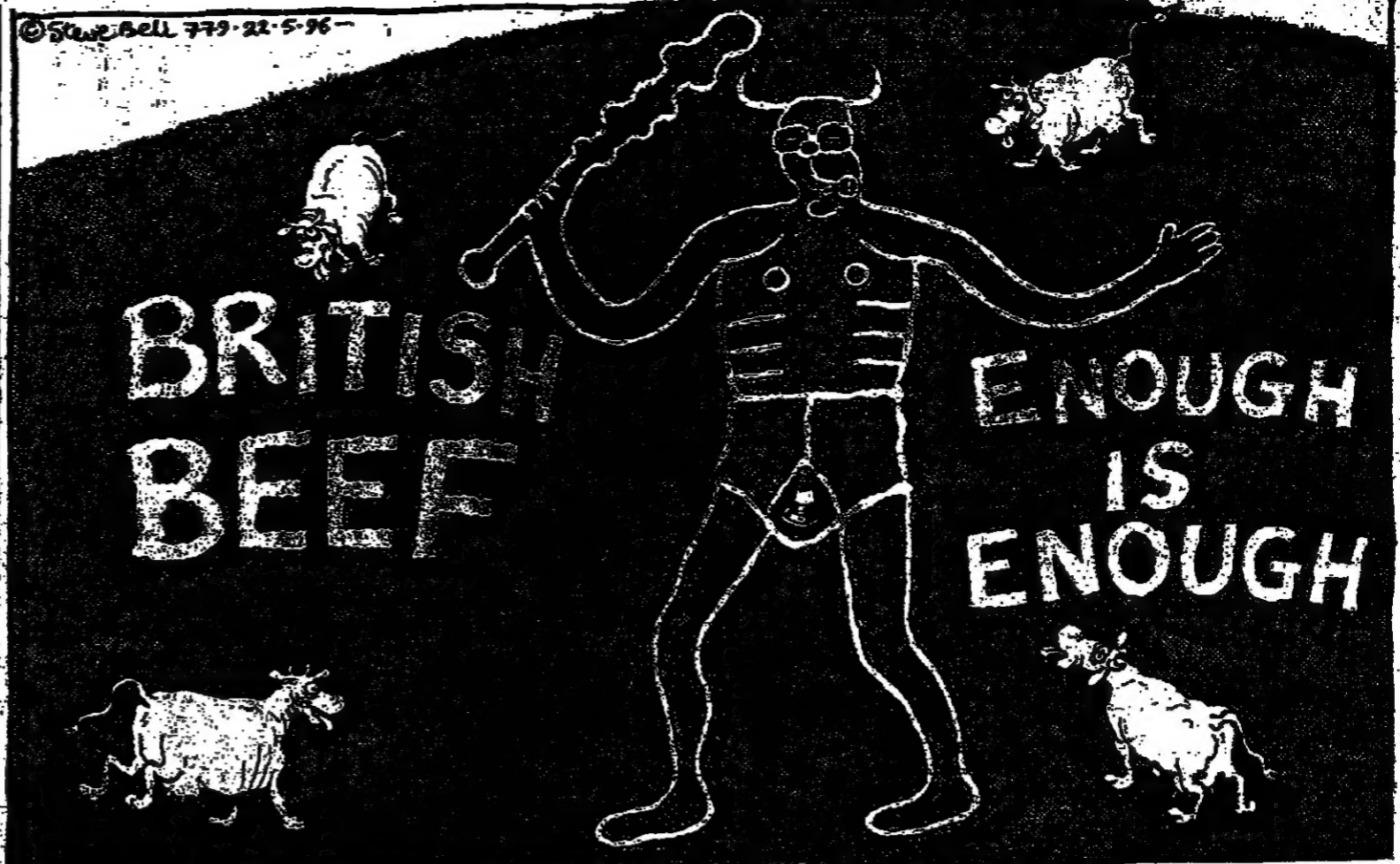
Stephan Dorrell remained unmoved yesterday. Change was non negotiable. Absurdly, he suggested it would be "a desertion of my responsibilities to turn away from the scheme".

Learning on the never-never

Labour's student loans leave a higher education shortfall

TEN years ago it would have caused a shock: Labour abandons student maintenance grants for a new system of loans. But no longer. The funding crisis in higher education is too serious — and too well known — for even the National Union of Students (NUS) to make Mickey Mouse protests.

— should not rule out all loan systems. Labour's proposals which were submitted to the Dearing Committee yesterday would retain a minimum earnings threshold below which people would not be required to pay and extends the repayment period from the current five to 20 years.



Letters to the Editor

Tax, facts and Hanson

IF LORD Hanson (Making tracks on tax, May 20) has finished crying his crocodile tears over those poor people earning a mere £1,000 a week who cannot afford any more taxes, perhaps he could explain why the party which he supports has piled tax increases on to those on much lower incomes, even less in a position to afford them.

increased rates and coverage of VAT, or council tax. Nor should we forget the growth of charges for medicines, an expanding list of NHS treatments, and many parts of the education system.

LORD Hanson, in his fantasy on potential Conservative success at the next election, describes £20,000 a year as not being uncommon nor constituting great wealth.

LORD Hanson claims that the state-run car industry collapsed by producing cars which nobody wanted. It was under private ownership that it became bankrupt, and it was investment whilst under state control which produced the new and profitable Rover.

LORD Hanson may be encouraged to share his views with Guardian readers, but will have no influence over the contents of Labour's manifesto (other than a vote during the Roads to the Manifesto process, the same as every other party member).

THE article is based on a false premise. Ken Livingstone may be encouraged to share his views with Guardian readers, but will have no influence over the contents of Labour's manifesto (other than a vote during the Roads to the Manifesto process, the same as every other party member).

PERHAPS unwittingly, Lord Hanson makes a powerful point. He shows how far the Tories and their media supporters have been able to identify taxation with direct taxation. For in overall taxation we are being taxed as never before. He made no reference to National Insurance.

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Driven crazy

FROM a case which came before Chelmsford (Essex) magistrates in November 1990: James Wilson of Stock was returning from London on what is now the A13 with his horse and cart when he passed Robert Simmons and another man driving a "break".

THE problem of road rage cannot be solved by psychological fixes any more than by technical ones (How to curb the rage, Leader, May 21). The biggest propaganda campaign in history, car advertising, has sold the myth that car use is the means to personal liberation and enhanced quality of life.

or "let off steam". Their ability to communicate with others is massively reduced. And cars are so manoeuvrable and fast that they get stuck behind obstacles that are of no significance what ever to cyclists and walkers.

Wilson offered to pay for any damage but Simmons refused and wanted to fight. Wilson would not fight and drove off, so Simmons and his associate pursued him, cutting at his face with their whips. At the Stamford turnpike, Wilson stopped to wash the blood off his face. Simmons also stopped and again challenged Wilson to fight. When he refused, Simmons hit him in the mouth with the butt of his whip.

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Our art critics visit the V&A

HAVING lived through war and air raids, I sometimes ask myself when going through the Barbican complex: what happens when bombs fall or explode here? How can people be saved when buried under the tumbling masses of these skyscrapers? Daniel Libeskind's design for the V&A extension is for me the realisation of this nightmare.

STACKEd several cardboard boxes outside for rubbish collection which I saw later had been partially crushed. I could not think what it reminded me of until I read Degan Judice's article (May 20). A similar fate struck me as not inappropriate.

WHAT a sense of proportion our TV supremes display. Nine days of solemn music and "tasteful programming" when a nonagenarian dies after a lifetime of wealth and privilege (With deepest regret, G2, May 20), while the slaughter of a classroom of five-year-olds and their teacher merits the postponement of a James Bond film.

IN the shadow of the high-minded debate on the appearance of the V&A's £22 million extension, it is being overlooked that the projected admission charges will, for many, put the interior itself totally out of bounds.

WAS interested to see Libeskind's design for the V&A extension described as an "Arjane's thread". My recollection of the story is imprecise. Did Ariadne drop her thread and then, attempting to find it, make one hell of a mess in a pile of cardboard boxes?

JAMES Hamilton-Paterson's nauseating attempt to prove that his palate is more catholic and cosmopolitan than anyone else's (Outlook, May 18) is nothing short of barbarism. Perhaps this is merely an attempt to boost your mail-bag.

How to register a reduction in the grim toll of child abuse

THE conviction of two paedophiles for the murder and abuse of a small boy raises again the urgent need for the Government to introduce a national register of child abusers. It is a matter of fact, supported by research, that abusers of children often repeat their offences despite convictions and lengthy prison sentences.

to explore other ways of having, it is possible to develop a community experiment which reduces reconviction significantly and which prevents potential victims in the future. Those working in Grendon staff and prisoners, are not sinking beneath condemnation; they are rising above dismissal in order to protect society.

I see no legislative or administrative barrier to creating such a register, although there would be some costs in its establishment and maintenance. However, these would be minimal in comparison to the savings in human misery, and in medical and psychological help needed subsequently by the victims.

As the law currently stands, paedophiles can and do abuse children abroad, then arrive back in Britain sometimes with video evidence of their sexual crimes and, even if these tapes are discovered, face nothing more than a charge of possessing pornography. Indeed, there are many men in Britain today who are known to have sexually abused children abroad and yet face no risk of prosecution.

YOUR article (Perversion without cure, May 17) about Grendon Prison's treatment of sex offenders describes us as a "sink of sexual perversion". This misses the purpose and the effect of our work with serious, dangerous and damaging offenders. It is important in our approach to address with offenders their dysfunctional behaviour so that we sustain their motivation to change and they become more satisfactorily functioning members of society.

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On the censorship debate

WILLIAM Hetherington of Housemans Bookshop (Letters, May 18) responds disappointingly to A Baron's previous letter (May 4) on his choice of stock. When did fascists and Nazis ever care about democracy? Any organisation or way of thinking which can make people afraid because of the colour of their skin or sexual orientation

tion or religious beliefs does not deserve the oxygen of publicity. It must be corrected to say "No platform for Nazis". The Social Democrats in Germany made the mistake of allowing free speech and that's what let Hitler in. We please don't misquote Voltaire at the Malcom Mitchell, London SE20.

A Country Diary

SOUTHERN CHILTERNs: The unrelenting cold winds — as bleak from the south as they are from the north — seem to be driving spring back into winter. On high ground the cherry blossom appeared snuggled deep amongst the foliage. Bunches of embryonic oak leaves litter the ground. And bluebells — six weeks late in many places — are being so smothered by shoals of more cold-tolerant goosegrass that the flowers have the look of some submerged blue seaweed. But most species seem to be coping rather well. The local red kites, needless to say, are oblivious to the wind. They toy with it, threading their way between chimney pots and tall beeches with their forked tails doing furious ruder-work. Today, I saw three floating in procession, head to the wind, above the ridge woods south of Istone. Past them, in the opposite direction, streaked my first hobby of the year. In one of

these woods there was a plant I couldn't recognise. It was a dead-nettle of some sort, with flaccid stems more than a foot tall, and buds still tight shut. I thought I'd discovered some rare hump-nettle — until it dawned on me that the prodigy was simply a yellow archangel whose leafy growth had far outstripped that of its bearded flowers. But the most heartening news that stretched up to the tree-lins and away into the distance. We project our own seasonal depression too easily on to the natural world. If those martins can cope with spring in the freezer, anything is possible. RICHARD MABEY

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Willi Daume

Always an Olympic loser

THE MUNICH Olympic Games of 1972 evoke the memory of murder - 13 Israeli athletes and officials were killed...

worthy German contributors to the Olympic movement - such as Carl Diam, who created the 1936 Olympic torch relay and the International Olympic Academy in Olympia...

but for Daume - just a messenger in this case - it was the image of him carried subsequently by many of the members...



Willi Daume... his Olympic ideals were dogged by situations not of his own making

comings - get together, are occasional gatherings. As such, it was an ideal outlet for Daume's organisational strategy...

life in the German basketball team at the 1936 Berlin Games. After the war, he served as president of the German Handball Federation for six years...

Olympic Committee. The range and depth of his contribution is shown by the fact that he served on seven IOC Commissions and was a vice-president from 1972-75.

Simon Weinstock

Born to take the reins

B EING born the son of a highly successful father, with great expectations for the family, is an enormous burden for a young person. This is especially true in the world of Anglo-Saxon capitalism...

its most critical divisions - Marconi electronics - and did so with a great deal of flair and ability. When the experienced warhorse Arnold Weinstock sought reliable, unbiased advice, it was to his son Simon that he turned...

Letters

Jack Wakefield writes: It was gratifying to see your obituary of Rob Hall (May 20) but it irks me that the heroism of Hall in staying up the mountain with his dying client is treated as a matter of course...

Jeff Cloves writes: One morning in the mid-1980s I saw Beryl Burton (obituary, May 7) racing. She was competing against her daughter Denise and struggling a bit. Her determination was undimmed...

for Beryl is the best vest Beryl is the best Beryl passes in a flash chromey spokes Italian alloy gleam lovely clean machine floon by in a dazzling blue Beryl for Beryl is the best and evermore shall be so

David Opatoshu

An actor upstaged by time

D AVID Opatoshu, who has died aged 78, was one of the very few survivors of one of the quaintest and, in its time, most active branches of the New York theatre: the Yiddish stage.



Brief but brilliant performance... David Opatoshu with Paul Newman in Exodus

shining star. But he offered a promise most people knew could never be fulfilled once the magnitude of the Holocaust had been revealed - the supply of new Yiddish speakers and listeners had dried up for ever.

Like the older Molly Picon, he had to learn how to be subtle rather than to emot. He succeeded brilliantly with his first movie Fishke der Lemle, "Fishke the Lame" which was later called The Light Ahead. It was about a penniless cripple who is sought as a husband for a blind girl...

his wartime service with the US Army Air Force in the South Pacific. But there was always the equal facility he had in English.

As long ago as 1938, the year before Fishke, he had made his Broadway debut with the famous Group Theatre, appearing in their production of Clifford Odets's Golden Boy and in Night Music. He went on to star in stage musicals including Cole Porter's Silk Stockings and Braccio Giuovani...

Birthdays

Charles Aznavour, singer, 72; Kenny Ball, jazz trumpeter, bandleader, 85; Lynne Barber, columnist, interviewer, 52; Richard Benjamin, actor, 58; George Best, former footballer, 50; Cheryl Campbell, actress, 47; Naomi Campbell, supermodel, 28; Mercedes Campbell, Liberal Democrat MP, 55; Jean Chalix, radio presenter, 62; Rina Maria De Prato, fashion designer, 39; Maurice Griffiths, yachtman, 94; Anthony Holden, writer and journalist, 49; Ieuan Wyn Jones MP, chairman Paid Cymru, 47; Howard Kendall, football manager, 50; Prof Christopher Peacocke, philosopher, 46; Elizabeth Rowlinson, mathematician, 66; Susan Strasberg, actress, 58; Julie Walters, actress, 46; Betty Williams, Irish peace campaigner, 53.

Death Notices

SCOTT, Christina Victoria Cameron, May 17th 1996, aged 61 yrs. Beloved daughter of the late Kenneth and Dorothy Scott, 48, Park Road, Boreham, Essex. Buried at St. Paul's Church, Chelmsford on Friday May 24th at 11.00am. Further enquiries to Doris Brothers 0171 938 9765.

In Memoriam

COOPER, Sheila, 22 May 1945 - 18 May 1996. Birthday memories, forever in our hearts. Mum, Aunt, Phil, Jackie and Sheila's many friends.

Births

Wendy & David wish to announce the birth of their son, James Andrew England, born 20th May 1996, 5lb 12oz.

Engagements

DAVID TOWNLEY, John and Cori Davies, 9 The Grove, Uxbridge, announce their engagement to their daughter, Jennifer Louise Townley, 24 The Grove, Uxbridge, 8th March 1996. Further enquiries to Cori Davies 01753 61120.

Jackdaw



Snoopy chest ON A sunny spring afternoon, Dr Barry Weintraub, a trim and tan New York plastic surgeon, was poking his patient in the eye with a small stick. "You see, here, you're getting hooding," he said, pushing a plastic surgical pointer into the woman's eyes.

clear, wide eyes of her youth, before the vagaries of New York left her with what she now saw were - there was no denying it - squinting, sagging sockets. "Well, guess what?" said the doctor's modulated voice. You can have those eyes again.

Then again, at age 28, she probably couldn't afford it. The New York Observer reporting on surgeons sharpening their scalpels for young professionals, (mostly women) who apparently see plastic surgery as an investment, like yoga, carrot juice or spinning classes. (Snoopy brasts is Dr Weintraub's term for breasts flattened with age.)

Lemmy's line THERE'S an old Irish saying: "It doesn't matter who you vote for, you always end up with the government."

GIRLS Who Do It TOP TEN Reasons Why You Should Sleep With Your Fella. 1. To see if you like sleeping with boys; you may be a lezza. 2. If you're lucky you might earn a "bad reputation" and all the sixth formers will ask you out 'cos they know you go down.

prepared you'll be when you become a groupie. 4. You can join the special club for girls Who've Done It, and they will let you hang around with them in the girl's bog during double maths where you can smoke fags and that.

therapist for counselling, hopefully during those boring economic classes. 10. Cos life's too short. Be safe out there... Advice from Anti-magazine, the one that anti-porn MP Peter Luff did not get hold of.

One of the orphans who will be killed would have grown up to become a tyrant who made good, utilitarian men do bad things, another would have become John Sununu, and a third would have invented the pop-top can.

hearts on the track that would have been transplanted into ten patients at the local hospital who will die without donor hearts. These are the only hearts available, and the brain is aware of this. If the railman on the left side of the track lives, he too, will kill five men - in fact, the same five men the railman on the right would kill.



RIP... Lemmy talks!

able, but the brain does not know this. Assume that the brain's choice, whatever it turns out to be, will serve as an example to other brains in Vats, and thus the effects of its decision will be amplified. Also assume that if the brain chooses the right side of the fork, an unjust war free of war crimes will ensue, whereas if the brain chooses the left fork, a just war fraught with war crimes will result.

Question: Ethically speaking, what should the brain do? Justify your answer. From Brain in Vats in BOING BOING.

Emily Sheffield

ports mon... reasu growth cannot... Scalis o... burb Eur... ussia se... in think

Handwritten text: 1520











# SportsGuardian

Twickenham calls emergency meeting to head off breakaway by top clubs

## Rugby hits the panic button

Robert Armstrong

ENGLISH rugby plunged into a fresh self-destructive crisis last night that could shortly result in the leading 20 clubs forming themselves into an alternative union. In a last-ditch attempt to forestall an irrevocable split, the president of the Rugby Football Union, Bill Bishop, has taken the rare step of calling an emergency meeting of the full 60-man committee for Friday.

Bishop, who acted as honest broker at last week's abortive talks between the clubs and Twickenham in London, fears that his one-year term of office may be remembered ultimately for the disintegration of the union, which could take place before he steps down on July 12.

The top clubs, under the chairmanship of Donald Kerr of Harlequins, have drawn up plans to develop their own competitions and television contracts at home and in Europe because they believe they are being forced out of the union.

Two major obstacles are preventing a possible settlement. By far the bigger is the negative negotiating style of Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive committee, who has comprehensively failed in his brief to bring some order to the union's affairs. Brittle has also dropped the widely respected RFU secretary Tony Hallett from his negotiating team, apparently because Hallett gets on with the clubs.

Another big stumbling-block has been the refusal of powerful grass-roots elements such as the counties, junior clubs and the services to back the top clubs' demand for a professional, properly funded infrastructure in the new open era ushered in by the International Board. The traditionalists, who largely support Brittle, have conducted a fiercely fought rearguard action on the full committee, including a whispering campaign against the progressive-minded Hallett.

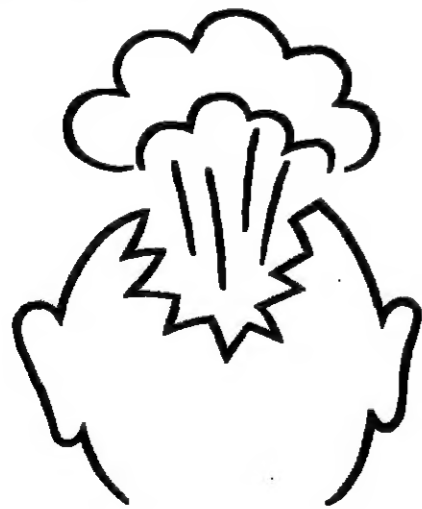
The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, as the elite clubs are now called, have told Bishop they have come to the end of negotiations with Brittle and will recommend to their member clubs a breakaway from the union forthwith. The clubs believe Brittle is playing a delaying game until his ally, the president-elect John Richardson, replaces Bishop in just over seven weeks.

Bishop said yesterday: "I spoke to the officers of the union and took the decision only last night to have a full meeting on Friday. All the members of the Rugby Union should hear all the facts and come to a decision. If anything did go badly wrong, I might not be forgiven if I had not given people the opportunity to have their say."

At the core of the dispute, which has gone on for five months, is the structure of competitive rugby in England next season, together with the distribution of television income and whether the players are contracted to Twickenham or their clubs. On each issue the clubs complain Brittle has rejected the conclusions of joint negotiating sub-committees that include his own representatives.

Kerr, who last month warned that the clubs would boycott the Courage leagues and Pilkington Cup next season, will probably explain Epru's demands at Friday's meeting. He said: "Negotiations have dragged on and on and we feel we have to bring matters to a conclusion. We need to know where we stand for next season. There is no threat but we feel that Cliff Brittle is determined to force us to leave the union."

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### STORM CLOUDS GATHER OVER ENGLAND WARM-UP



Catch it if you can... England practise at The Oval before tomorrow's one-day international against India

## Illingworth defends book as Lord's prepares to act

Paul Weaver on an untimely publication reviving the Devon Malcolm controversy

RAY ILLINGWORTH faces the prospect of disciplinary action over his book, One Man Committee, which will be published next month but is being serialised in a national newspaper this week.

Whether the punishment will be administered by a man with a black cloth over his head or come in the form of a gentle knuckle-rap was unclear last night, what is obvious is that the chairman of the England selectors has upset a number of people in the game. Again, the Test and County Cricket Board, just over the river at Lord's. For the many people who are drawn to the compelling soap opera of English cricket, this was a vintage episode.

The first extract from the book was really yesterday and in it Illingworth repeated and clarified his criticism of the fast bowler Devon Malcolm, whom he largely blames for England losing last winter's Test series in South Africa.

Reg Taylor, general manager of Malcolm's club Derbyshire, complained to Lord's, and Gerard Elias, chairman of the CCC's disciplinary committee, warned that action might be taken. The board spokesman Richard Little said last night: "He

[Elias] has to make a decision if there is a case to be answered. If there is, a summary panel will be formed to decide what should be done."

Unlike players and umpires, Illingworth, who retires at the end of the season, is not required to submit books or articles to Lord's for approval. But he can be disciplined if he has written anything judged to be derogatory or which discloses confidences.

Illingworth, speaking from his Yorkshire bunker yesterday, said: "It's now a matter for the disciplinary committee chairman. If he thinks I've got something to answer, I'm prepared to answer it. All I'll ask is let them read the book properly."



What a racket... England's coach Lloyd looks to tennis

"I don't think I've slagged anyone off or been unfair to anyone. Anybody who reads the book will see that. All I've done is use my right of reply to Devon, and I've not had the chance to do that until now."

This was not good enough for Taylor, who said: "We are very disappointed that Ray Illingworth has again publicly criticised Devon Malcolm, and Lord's have said they will look at it seriously."

Devon is still picking himself off the ground after what happened in the winter and now here we are again knocking his feet from under him. It is up to the board whether he can do the job, and I would be surprised if other counties don't feel the same."

In South Africa Illingworth despaired of Malcolm and even claimed he "did not have a cricket brain". Perhaps he recognised a man as stubborn as himself but the criticism was valid. When Malcolm returned to England he attacked Illingworth in an article in the same paper the chairman's tone is now appearing in. He was reprimanded but not fined.

Illingworth's observations are usually spoken if blunt. It is the disruptive nature of his timing which has really upset people. The international season starts tomorrow. The timing, though, was not Illingworth's choice but the publishers'. It is also the nature of these serialisations that they decline into observations on fielding circles and the evolution of the law law. Strong disciplinary action against Illingworth would be more disruptive than the book itself, and in view of the imminence of the chairman's departure the board may decide to fudge the issue. A

## The Best of a bad job on screen



Vincent Hanna

THE fax arrived on Saturday morning. It was incomprehensible. I would have paid more attention to it had it not been for the Religious Conservative Association. They were nasty to their MP Sir George Gardner, who threatened a by-election. I had to think politics instead of England v Hungary, and I forgot about the fax.

It was from Quentin. You may recall that he "indulgence" events for large sums of money. He is not a respectable person but, because we were altar boys together, he sometimes tips me off by sending me faxes, head or tail of which I cannot make. The style is opaque because Quentin thinks everything is bugged, and he could be right.

It read: *Ben, on Oscar Franck with a Celtic bet, and add the best four. Yes, I know it's obvious now, but at the time my mind was on other things.*

Such as the radio programme I was on, about the excess of sport on television this summer. There are over 1,000 hours, what with Euro 96, the Olympics and everything else.

I am torn about it. I recognise that for normal people there will be no respite from wall-to-wall sport. On the other hand I will enjoy a golden summer of self-indulgence — in my shed.

Not that I have much choice about this. Foolishly I left BBC Sport's information pack about the house, and it fell into enemy hands. An hour later my wife knocked. "Do you," she inquired, "have a camp bed in there?" "No," I said. She opened the shed door and threw one in.

Actually the BBC is as much a prisoner as I am. It must bid vast sums for major sporting events, and promise extensive coverage, or it may lose the chance next time. Airtime is important to the sports authorities because they can sell both advertising space and sponsorship. Thus we have just seen an FA Cup final where the BBC paid to advertise Littlewoods Pools.

None of this makes financial sense and it won't until the multi-channel opportunities of digital television arrive, and the BBC can compete with Sky's dedicated chan-

nels. By the way, I'm told that buying and selling facilities within the BBC's internal market can make sports coverage seem economic. Now, where was I? "Heavenly bread!" said Emily over Sunday lunch. "Yes, it is Ulster soda farl," I explained.

"Stupid person," she snapped. "I mean Paris Angellias, the hymn by César Franck, that's what he's on about." She waved Quentin's fax at me. "We have to bet on someone called Panis — and on an angelic Celt." "Well, there is a grand prix driver called Panis," I said, "but he's never won anything." There was a long silence, followed by a stamped to the television. He couldn't have — could he? Unbelievably Olivier Panis won the Monaco Grand Prix. There were 20 starters and three finishers. It was either the Ligier's Honda engine is incompetent race ever staged, or it was Quentin's masterpiece. I thought I caught a glimpse of him on the balcony of an apartment overlooking the circuit, but I wasn't sure.

Now it's all over the papers that Panis is a fine driver and the Ligier's Honda engine is formidable. But as Dorothy Parker said when Calvin Coolidge died: "How can they tell?" By the way, the angelic Celt won the Eurovision Song Contest for Ireland at 5-1, and I should have made a fortune.

THE third leg of the bet was to pick George Best's all-time favourite goal. It was No. 4, against Chelsea, and part of BBC's tribute to our hero at 50, to which we were all glued. I found it a mixed bag, with two well-crafted documentaries and that great 5-1 defeat of Benfica. George's draft Fantasy XI demonstrated why he was never a manager, and Parky's awful interview left me depressed.

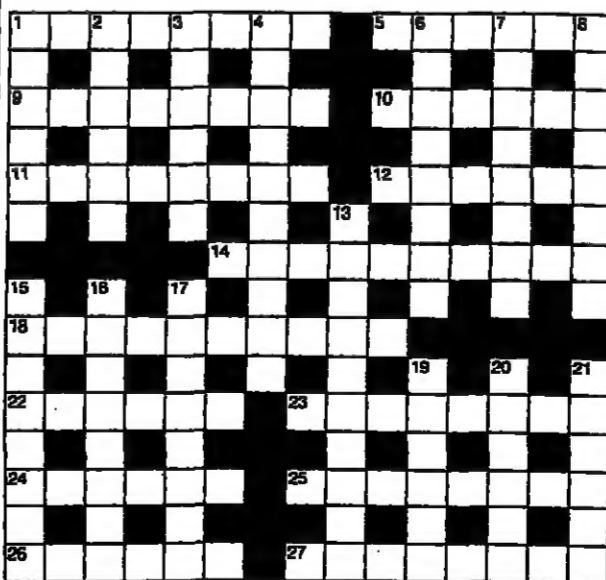
There sat the finest footballer I — or anyone else — have ever seen, but who, in almost everything else he did, was a prize dickhead. Fortunately, for most of us, George is frozen in time, somewhere about 1965. On Sunday he looked awful. He found it difficult, he said, to think of himself as an alcoholic now, because he didn't have a drink every day. Maybe it hasn't all gone, he mused, because he had a lovely 24-year-old woman to share his life.

And we heard yet another rendition of that story about miss world in a negligee, \$25,000 in used notes, a bottle of Dom Perignon, and a waiter who asks: "George, where did it all go wrong?"

You know what the really sad part is? George still doesn't get it.

### Guardian Crossword No 20,659

Set by Logodaedalus



#### Across

- 1,27 In the final reckoning, when shall we have our oooos? (2,3,3,2,3,3)
- 5 Pitched a musical work into an American toboggan (6)
- 9 Painting by Turner? Better seen in comfort after a second (8)
- 10 Sulphur stuck to my ear lining showing dirty marks (6)
- 11,23 A chap lunched free? Not quiet! And not of the highest standard (5,3,8)
- 12 Being skilful, a doctor takes nothing with it (6)
- 14 The appeal of a dry allotment with carbon buried in it (10)
- 16 Service comes first here, so Uncle B. Isn't to be disturbed (6,4)
- 22 Football match — reminder to swallow pint — one (3-3)

#### Down

- 1 Where Strasbourg is left pursuing a doubtful case? (6)
- 2 Collection raised when bad actor is submerged in river (6)
- 3 Run away from Francesca Pellegrini (6)
- 4 Running level in Texas, thus breaking unkind pact (3,3,4)
- 6 Weak person has chance to imprison American editor (4,4)
- 7 Up about one — not a record of a philosopher (8)
- 8 New Tory dens built without mortar (3-5)

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,658

- 13 Bachelor, hooligan, dandy rescued together (7,3)
- 15 Family, having half a potato, would help to make soup (5-3)
- 16 I'm angry, revealing where rice is grown (2,1,5)
- 17 I would put up with a beauty class (8)
- 19 Separate act he'd rewritten (6)
- 20 Bear the expense of a female president (6)
- 21 Disney dwarf pulls up first of yellow skins (6)

#### Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 233 233. Calls cost 35p per min. cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

Image? Not good, conceded close-cropped Steve, who guards the doors at Manchester's glitziest. "No longer the big, bald, fat guy," said the slim twenty-something. "You've got to talk to people, be polite. Bouncing conveys the wrong image. We're not all bad, you know. We want people to have a good time."

Inside Story 22 page 4

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